Coastal Zone Management Authority in A.P.

212. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Coastal Zone Management Authority has been established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what functions have been assigned to this Authority and what have been its achievements so far, in the coastal areas of the State; and

(d) if the answer to part(a) above be in the negative, the reasons for establishing such an Authority in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Central Government has constituted the Andhra Pradesh State Coastal Zone Management Authority (APSCZMA) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 vide Notification S.O. 993(E) dated 26th November, 1998 to ensure effective implementation of the provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 in Andhra Pradesh. The authority was reconstituted vide Notification S.O. 27(E) on 4th January, 2002. The main functions of the Authority *inter-alia* include; (i) examination of proposals for changes or modifications in CRZ classification, (ii) inquiring into and/or reviewing of cases of alleged violations of the provisions of the Notifications, and (iii) filing complaints in cases of non-compliance of the directions issued by it. The Authority has held periodic meetings to discharge the responsibilities assigned to it.

(d) Does not arise.

National Food Processing Policy

213. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to formulate a new national food processing policy, to increase the level of processing from the present two per cent to ten per cent, by the end of the decade;

(b) if so, the total investment needed for this propose;

(c) whether government are thinking of inviting investment in the food processing industry from the MNCs or private partners, for meeting the domestic requirements as well as for exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has initiated action for formulating a National Food Processing Policy and for this purpose a draft Policy has been prepared. It is envisaged that for increasing the processing capacity in fruit and vegetable sector alone from 2% to 10% (on annual production) over a period of 10 years, the investment required across the food chain would be approximately Rs. 1,40,000 crores.

(c) and (d) The investment will have to come from both domestic and foreign sources. In order to encourage investment in Food Processing Industry, the Government has abolished the requirement to obtain industrial license for setting up of food processing units except alcoholic beverages. To enable 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Food Processing Industry (FPI), Government has already brought this sector under Automatic Route. Besides, the Government has also taken a number of other policy initiatives to promote the growth of Processed Food Sector in the country, which include *inter alia* provision of financial assistance in the form of grant to private industries, public sector undertakings, non-governmental organisations, cooperatives etc.

Polytechnic and vocational institutions in rural areas

214. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need for introducing polytechnic and vocational institutions in rural India;

(b) whether it is fact that due to higher fee structures, the poor and meritorious students are unable to get into such institutions; and